

# STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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## DELAWARE RIVER COMPACT

The Pennsylvania legislature has approved an Interstate Compact on the Delaware River, thus completing a four-state agreement for the long-range development of the Delaware River watershed. The other three states involved -- Delaware, New Jersey and New York -- approved the measure earlier this year. The compact is subject to ratification by Congress.

The development plan includes water resources and flood control. The compact incorporates earlier agreements among the states on use of the river's water.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

COLORADO -- The Colorado legislature appropriated \$104 million from the general fund for state operations in 1961-62. Similar expenditures for the current fiscal year are estimated at \$80.5 million.

The capital construction fund, accumulated from an unencumbered surplus of general fund receipts over expenditures, will support a \$20 million pay-as-you-go building program approved by the legislature for 1961-62. More than half the construction budget is allocated for additional facilities at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver.

The legislature created a Cancer Advisory Council, and made it a misdemeanor for persons other than physicians, osteopaths or dentists to treat cancer or claim to cure the disease. The state's Occupational Disease Act was revised to almost double medical and hospital benefits. The list of diseases covered under the act was extended, and coverage of partial disability was included.

The legislature approved reorganization of the judicial system in a constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters at

the next general election. It approved pay raises of 5 per cent for 10,000 civil service employees -- to cost \$2 million.

At the local government level, counties were given permission to band together into capital improvement districts and to levy an area-wide sales tax of up to 2 per cent to finance improvements. The legislation will have immediate application in Denver's four-county area. The Mayors of Denver and surrounding cities last year led an unsuccessful campaign for a constitutional amendment that would have allowed counties to impose a local sales tax. Under the new legislation, the district court may authorize an election on the establishment of a capital improvement district upon petition by any county. Approval of the majority of voters in the district, rather than in each of the counties affected, would be sufficient to establish the district.

In education, more stringent standards were established for teacher certification, and responsibility for certification was centered in the State Board of Education. Junior colleges were authorized to levy tuition charges up to \$500 a year for each student from outside the county. Another measure requires counties without junior colleges, and having residents in attendance at institutions in another county, to levy a property tax to pay tuition charges.

An Apprenticeship Council was established with a full-time director and staff under the Colorado Industrial Commission. It was authorized to work with labor and management in creating new apprenticeship training programs and improving existing ones. The legislature expanded the state program of special education for children of migratory workers and authorized a program of instruction for parents of deaf and blind children.

In highway measures the legislature authorized members of county or municipal law enforcement units in fresh pursuit of traffic violators to arrest and cite the violators outside the officers' home jurisdictions. Speed contests were prohibited, and a single

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violation was made subject to suspension of license. Another enactment discontinued issuance of minor operator's licenses for 15 and 16-year olds. The legislature authorized special permits, for driver instruction purposes only, for youths within six months of their 16th birthday who are enrolled in an authorized driver training course. The legislature provided fines of \$50 to \$500 and prison terms up to six months for a second conviction for driving without a license.

**CONNECTICUT** -- The Connecticut legislature convened on January 4 and adjourned June 7. Approximately 1,000 bills and resolutions were passed.

The legislature approved a record general fund appropriation of about \$570 million. In addition it adopted a highway fund budget for the biennium of \$157 million, approved borrowing for highway purposes of another \$125 million, voted to issue \$62 million in bonds for state institutions and other capital purposes, and provided a special \$25 million fund for grants to cities for urban renewal programs. Total spending and borrowing authorized by the legislature approximates \$940 million.

To finance these expenditures, taxes were increased to produce some \$126 million in additional state revenue during the biennium. Tax increases include a raise in the sales tax from 3 to 3-1/2 per cent; increase in the cigarette tax from 3 to 5 cents a pack; increase from 3.75 to 5 per cent in corporation taxes; and raises in other business taxes and motor vehicle taxes.

The legislature provided additional funds for state aid to schools amounting to \$20 per pupil per year, with additional grants for districts in which enrollments have increased rapidly. It allocated funds to begin construction of a state medical-dental school. And it authorized issuance of bonds for additional dormitory and classroom facilities in state colleges.

Legislation was adopted authorizing the state to participate in the federal program for medical care for the aged. Insurance companies also were authorized to cooperate in providing low cost major medical insurance for the aged. The legislature approved establishment of a pre-paid dental insurance plan. State employees received a \$200 pay increase and the state assumed the full cost of medical aid hospital coverage for its employees.

Under a new program to provide grants to municipalities for urban renewal, the cities will repay the grants if the areas redeveloped provide additional tax revenues for the local government. Existing anti-discrimination provisions pertaining to housing were extended to cover additional units.

A bond issue was approved to finance mortgage loans for the encouragement of industrial expansion. The legislature allocated

\$500,000 for establishment of a nuclear research center, with the funds contingent upon private industry providing \$1 million for this purpose.

Vehicle registration fees for passenger cars were increased from \$8 to \$10 per year. Registration fees for commercial vehicles were increased an average of 30 per cent. Commercial carriers using Connecticut highways were required to pay taxes on gasoline consumed within the state even though it is not purchased there. A uniform traffic accident reporting system was adopted.

The required minimum wage was increased from \$1 to \$1.15 per hour as of October, 1961 and to \$1.25 as of October 1, 1963.

A humane slaughter act was adopted and a motor boat registration act passed.

Tax relief of some \$1.2 million was provided for the New Haven Railroad. A general interlocal cooperation act was adopted, as was the New England Corrections Compact.

**GEORGIA** -- The Georgia legislature adjourned March 6 after approving the first appropriations act since 1956. It authorized \$412 million for fiscal 1962 and \$420 million for 1963. Comparable spending figures for 1960 and estimates for the current fiscal year are \$349 million and \$393 million respectively. The legislature authorized a joint interim study by executive and legislative appointees of state budget and fiscal procedures.

The legislature set an \$18,000 pay level for the State Treasurer and \$12,000 for the Secretary of State. The expense allowance of legislators was raised \$10 per day. A health insurance plan for state employees was authorized.

Education accounted for the largest share of increases authorized by appropriations action. Teachers were granted a \$300 salary increase. Other education measures repealed school segregation laws, authorized tuition grants under special circumstances, provided for local option votes concerning the maintenance of schools under desegregation orders, and approved a constitutional amendment, to be passed on by the voters, aimed at freedom from compulsory association in public schools.

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A House reapportionment measure provided for an additional legislator in each of five counties with corresponding reductions in representation for five other counties. The House also established an interim reapportionment law study committee. Another measure dealing with elections provides for the cancellation of voter registration for failure to cast a ballot within a three-year period.

The legislature approved a \$100 million bond issue for maintenance and rehabilitation of principal state roads. It extended state maintenance responsibility to state-aid roads in municipalities with more than 30,000 people. Another measure authorized the state to defray all or part of the cost of relocating water and sewer facilities in subdivisions when necessary for road improvement. Property condemnation procedures were altered to expedite highway construction. Motor vehicle measures provide for a certificate of title for all new vehicles, effective in 1962. Another measure permits new residents to use valid out-of-state drivers' licenses for thirty days without penalty. The legislature authorized participation in the federal medical care program for the aged pending the availability of state funds. It adopted legislation for tax equalization programs. Loans to counties and expenditure of municipal funds were authorized for an equalization program. Also approved was establishment of a state grant program to areas qualifying for federal aid for water pollution control work.

**MAINE** -- The Maine legislature, which convened on January 4, adjourned on June 18. The session lasted 24 weeks, a record for the state. Some 742 acts and resolutions passed by the legislature were signed by the Governor.

Appropriations by the legislature reached a new high -- \$129 million from the general fund, \$76 million for highways, and \$5 million for construction purposes. The legislature approved a \$6 million bond issue for submission to the electorate for highway construction. To finance the expenditures cigarette, beer and liquor taxes were increased; this was expected to produce \$6.2 million in revenue during the biennium.

The state's three congressional districts were reduced to two. A measure reapportioning the legislature was enacted. A statewide District Court System was established to replace existing municipal courts and trial justices. The new court will also assume some of the jurisdiction now vested in the Superior Court. The legislature approved an administrative code and an election code.

Welfare benefits were extended to some groups now excluded from coverage. The legislature provided for the state's participation in the federal aid medical care program. Funds from community mental health services

were increased by \$150,000. The legislature also enacted a statute embodying the "Durham Rule" as a test for determining whether a person accused of a crime shall be held criminally responsible. (See State Government News, June, 1961.)

State aid for school districts was increased by \$1.2 million. Additional funds were provided for teachers' colleges and for the University of Maine. The legislature approved a merger of Portland University and the University of Maine. It adopted a plan to convert Fort Kent State Normal School into a four-year teachers' college. An appropriation of \$50,000 was provided for a series of educational programs to be televised by commercial stations. Subject to approval in local referenda, local communities were enabled to provide bus service to parochial and private schools. A \$2.6 million bond issue was approved for submission to the voters to build student housing at four state teachers' colleges.

Other measures approved reduce the gross receipts tax on railroads and authorize the Industrial Building Authority to grant larger loans. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and the New England Corrections Compact were enacted.

Two constitutional amendments were approved for submission to the voters. One would place the funds of the Maine State Retirement System in trust. The other would authorize municipalities to issue securities and finance construction of industrial buildings for lease or sale to industrial firms or corporations. A local referendum would be required before a city or town could issue such securities.

**NEVADA** -- The Nevada legislature, meeting in biennial session this year after a two-year experiment with annual sessions, passed a record general spending program of \$82.3 million for 1961-63. Comparable annual appropriations in 1959 and 1960 amounted to \$31.1 million and \$38.1 million respectively or a two-year total of \$69.5 million.

Education took the major share of the appropriations -- \$50.1 million -- with \$38.3 million going for state aid to public schools and \$10.1 to the University of Nevada. Construction outlays include \$1.5 million for an engineering building at the university's Reno campus. Other construction outlays bring the total state building program to \$6.6 million. The legislature authorized general bond issues of \$1.5 million for a new university history building, \$1.4 million for a minimum security prison and \$2.4 million for construction of two dormitories at the Reno campus of the university.

To help balance spending the legislature increased levies on cigarettes and liquor -- expected to yield \$5 million.

The lower house was reapportioned, reducing the number of members from 47 to 37.



Under the new alignment the two largest counties will have a total of 21 seats -- 15 smaller counties a total of 16.

Salary increases approved by the legislature raised the annual pay of the Governor and Supreme Court Justices from \$18,000 to \$20,000; District Court Judges from \$15,000 to \$17,500; the Attorney General from \$15,000 to \$17,000; and the Lieutenant Governor from \$2,400 to \$3,600 plus \$25 a day for each day served as Governor or President of the Senate.

A constitutional amendment was approved for the first time increasing Assembly terms to four years and Senate terms to six years and staggering the terms of members of both houses. To become effective the amendment must be approved by a subsequent legislature and ratified by a majority vote on the amendment by the electorate. The legislature provided for four alternate members from each house for the Legislative Commission. The alternate members were authorized to act in an official capacity when regular members are absent. The commission was also designated as the state's Commission on Uniform State Laws. The Legislative Counsel was authorized to appoint a Legislative Auditor with the concurrence of the Legislative Commission.

Final legislative approval was given to a constitutional amendment eliminating a shortcut method of constitutional amendment by initiative petition. The amendment will be submitted to the voters in 1962. The proposal, if approved, would require passage of a petitioned constitutional amendment by a majority of the voters in two successive general elections. At present a petition for a constitutional amendment signed by 10 per cent of the voters may become valid on passage by the legislature or by a majority of voters at a single election. Other election measures prohibit a person from becoming a candidate for, or holding, more than one elective office for which a salary is paid, and require presidential electors to cast their ballots for the candidate who received the highest vote in the state for President and Vice President. A Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens was created to study discrimination against members of minority groups. The penalty for sale of narcotic drugs to minors was made subject to life imprisonment, and the penalty for sale to adults was increased from a range of ten to twenty years to twenty to forty years.

An Occupational Diseases Act was amended to cover radiation injuries. A Division of Mental Health was established in the Department of Health. Its principal duty will be the establishment of local outpatient treatment clinics for the mentally ill under a beginning appropriation of \$430,000. Child adoption regulations were tightened, and the Welfare Department was authorized to regulate child placement agencies. The legislature also approved an investigation of adoption practices by the Attorney General's office.

Nevada became the first state to ratify a new Driver License Compact. It provides formal means for exchange of information among ratifying states on convictions for violations and actions against the licenses of drivers outside their home state. The legislature also provided for incorporating the record of a driver previously licensed in another state into the Nevada record when an application for license is made in Nevada.

**OREGON** -- The 1961 Oregon legislature voted general fund expenditures of \$366.7 million for 1961-63. Comparable appropriations for the current biennium total \$313 million. Indications were that the state would need to use most or all of an anticipated unexpended \$40 million in the general fund at the beginning of the next biennium to balance the spending program for the period.

For capital improvements the legislature voted \$16 million, including \$10 million for building projects authorized at institutions of higher education.

More than half the general fund outlay, or \$206 million, went for education. The annual state contribution per pupil was raised from \$105 to \$115 for the next school year and to \$120 for the following year, bringing the state share of school costs to \$127 million, 38 per cent of the total. In the current biennium, state aid to schools totaled \$106 million.

General fund contributions to higher education were increased from \$55 million in this biennium to \$61 million for 1961-63. This does not include a 14 per cent increase in college and university faculty salaries.

Pay raises of 10 per cent for state employees and officials were another factor in the higher spending. Included were annual salary raises as follows: for the Governor, from \$17,500 to \$20,000 plus \$600 per month as an expense allowance; for the Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney General, from \$12,500 to \$15,000; for Supreme Court Justices, from \$16,000 to \$19,000; for Circuit Court Judges, from \$13,000 to \$16,500; and for District Court Judges, from \$9,000 to \$10,500.

The legislature authorized establishment of a commission to write a new state constitution. Both houses of the legislature were reapportioned, with only minor changes and without changing the number of members in either house. A special tax court was established to hear appeals formerly handled by the Tax Commission. A voter-approved constitutional amendment to appoint alternates to elective positions, for the purpose of assuring continuity of government in event of nuclear attack, was implemented by legislation.

Health and welfare legislation included a \$10 million program to provide medical care for needy aged. Provision was made for the state to cooperate with counties in distri-

buting \$12 million in surplus food to persons receiving welfare assistance. The legislature authorized the State Department of Forestry to establish with counties on a share-the-cost basis, and to supervise, summer work camps for youths 15 to 18 years old. It permitted counties to establish and operate local mental health clinics under guidance of the State Board of Control and to receive dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the state under a \$200,000 appropriation to set up the clinics.

A little Landrum-Griffith Act was established to provide election machinery to determine union representation for workers not covered by federal law. Picketing of farms during harvest was prohibited except for employees who have worked for a farmer at least three days.

Highway and motor vehicle legislation included provision for billboard regulation on state and interstate highways, in the latter instance qualifying the state for an additional 1/2 of 1 per cent in federal aid on interstate highway construction.

In other action the legislature provided that out-of-state residents working in Oregon may use a standard deduction in computing Oregon's state income tax. The right to participate in national elections was given to persons who have resided in the state less than six months immediately preceding an election.

Among law enforcement measures, one authorized narcotics officers to use wiretaps in their investigations. The definition of insanity in criminal cases was liberalized by adoption of part of the model penal code of the American Law Institute. Departing from the M'Naghten ruling, the new code provides that a person is not guilty of criminal conduct if at the time of the conduct, as a result of mental illness or mental defect, he lacks substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality of his act or to conform to the requirements of the law.

**RHODE ISLAND** -- The Rhode Island legislature which convened on January 3 adjourned on June 3 -- the longest session in the modern history of the state. Approximately 1,600 bills and resolutions were introduced, of which some 600 were passed by both houses.

The legislature approved a general fund appropriation of \$98.5 million for the coming year. Tax relief estimated at \$670,000 was granted the New Haven Railroad, and \$200,000 in tax exemptions was provided for a transit company in the state.

Legislation was adopted to establish a Family Court to take over functions of an existing Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. In addition the act provides for a family counseling service, a screening center for juvenile offenders and a separate juvenile correctional center.

Measures affecting governmental organization included establishment of two additional senatorial districts, and creation of a "little Hoover" commission. Another act established a Division of Local and Metropolitan Affairs in the Department of Administration. The new division takes over functions of the Board of Tax Equalization, which was abolished. It will also coordinate programs of state assistance in metropolitan areas.

The primary election system was revamped, and provision made for both major political parties to hold primaries on the same day, using the same polling places. Previously each party held its primary on a separate day.

State aid for education for the coming year was set at 105 per cent of the existing allocation except in districts in which enrollment is decreasing. A commission to study state educational aid programs and the state's scholarship system was established.

A new act permits issuance of limited drivers' licenses to persons whose licenses are under suspension or revocation. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles was given discretionary authority to suspend or revoke licenses for out-of-state convictions.

Maximum weekly workmen's compensation benefits were increased from \$36 to \$40. A humane slaughter act was adopted. The authority of savings banks to invest in home mortgages was broadened. Another measure provides for the licensing and certification of social workers.

**TENNESSEE** -- The 1961 Tennessee legislature authorized \$419 million in general fund expenditures, compared with \$374 million for the previous biennium. The appropriation for education was raised from \$271 million to \$301 million. Expenditures from all funds financed by state taxes are expected to reach \$660 million -- about 10 per cent over the figure for the previous fiscal period.

The legislature also approved bond issues of \$30 million for highways and \$12 million for special schools and institutions of higher learning.

The legislature provided for increasing teacher salaries by \$100 annually and raised the age of eligibility for benefits under the teacher retirement system. It provided for regulation of correspondence schools by the State Board of Education and private business schools by a separate state board. It also authorized state colleges to enter into urban renewal agreements with the federal government.

The legislature provided for mandatory purging of voter registration books every two years.

Salary increases authorized by the legislature include a raise from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for the Governor and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for other major state officers.

The Divisions of Finance and Administration, Personnel, and Standards and Purchases were raised to departmental status. The Governor was authorized to accept grants involved in any new federal programs and to designate the state agency responsible for administering such programs. Other organizational measures empowered the Governor to appoint acting heads of state agencies and special judges to the Court of Appeals during the illness or absence of incumbents.

Highway safety measures include one which increased penalties for subsequent convictions of drunken driving. The legislature authorized the State Highway Department to acquire lands and to construct and maintain roads for municipal segments of the interstate highway system.

The legislature authorized the state's participation in the federal program of medical assistance for the aged. It established a grant program for local health services. The Health Department was authorized to regulate the use of radioactive materials, and the Governor was empowered to enter into an agreement with the federal government to assume certain responsibilities now held by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Other health legislation authorizes the Commission on Mental Health to establish mental hospital districts; establishes a standard for the discharge of mentally retarded patients; and allows former residents of Tennessee to be treated in state mental hospitals.

The legislature adopted continuity of government legislation, providing for lines of succession for local offices and emergency locations of government. The Southern Interstate Nuclear Compact was ratified. Authorization was given for establishment of a forestry camp in conjunction with a vocational school for boys, and a statewide system of probation for adults was instituted.

Other enactments provide for audits of political subdivisions and special taxing districts; exempt out-of-state products in storage for transit from ad valorem taxes; and require municipalities to adopt a plan of services before annexing a territory with a population of more than 500 persons.

WASHINGTON -- The 1961 Washington legislature authorized general fund appropriations of \$966 million for 1961-63. This is about \$146 million more than is expected to be spent from the general fund in the current biennium. Also authorized was a \$109.5 million capital construction program, including reappropriation of \$58.5 million previously earmarked for building purposes, and \$7.5 million for a new intermediate correctional institution. A bond issue of \$27.5 million was approved to help pay for the main construction program.

Some \$20.6 million in new and increased taxes will help balance general fund expendi-

tures in the next biennium. The cigarette tax was increased from 6 to 7 cents; the federal estate tax deduction allowed on the state inheritance tax was repealed; a 4 per cent sales tax and an increase in the business tax that were due to expire in mid-1961 were made permanent; and the sales tax was extended to credit bureaus, automobile parking lots and some amusement enterprises.

Education absorbed more than half the general fund appropriations. Public schools will receive \$423 million, which is nearly \$100 million more than in the previous biennium. Part of the increase is accounted for by raises in teacher salaries of \$283 next year and \$333 the following year. To provide state matching funds for local school construction, the legislature approved a \$50.75 million bond issue, to be retired from sales tax receipts over the next twenty years. It authorized establishment of special local education programs for superior students and a Division of Special Education in the Department of Public Instruction to develop programs for them.

State support of higher education rose nearly \$20 million to \$100 million for the next biennium. State college and university teachers were given pay increases of 7.6 per cent. The legislature approved establishment of two new junior colleges.

Revision of the state welfare program included a 10 per cent reduction in aid to dependent children and in general assistance, offset in part by a program for distribution of surplus foods. Another change provided a work relief program for able-bodied recipients of state aid.

A youth conservation corps was established under the State Parks and Recreation Commission to provide jobs and outdoor training in forestry projects on public lands at \$25 a week for youths 16 to 21 years old.

Labor legislation provided for an immediate raise in the minimum wage to \$1.15 and a further increase to \$1.25 in January, 1962.

The legislature authorized counties, cities and municipalities to join forces for regional planning. It approved a constitutional amendment allowing voters of cities and towns to establish excess property levies for four years instead of for a single year to finance capital construction.

An anti-trust act was passed to guard against unfair methods of competition or deceptive and unfair acts in the conduct of trade and commerce. Regulations also were established governing false or misleading advertising.

A number of significant actions were taken in the corrections field. Counties were authorized to establish prison work camps at the expense of counties wanting them. A revolving fund with a beginning appropriation of \$30,000 was created for use of the Parole Board in making loans to paroled prisoners



until they obtain employment. The legislature provided for termination of parole status of deserving persons and for restoration of civil rights.

One enactment set aside the doctrine of sovereign immunity, and the state was made subject to suit for damages on the same basis as private individuals and corporations.

Subsistence allowances for state officers and employees were increased from \$15 to \$25 a day when they are on state business outside the limits of an adjoining state.

Constitutional amendments approved for submission to the electorate include one granting voting rights to persons resident in the state for at least six months. Another provides for appointment of substitute elective officials and relocation of the capital to assure continuity of civil government in event of nuclear attack.

**WEST VIRGINIA** -- The West Virginia legislature at its 1961 regular session approved a record \$140 million general appropriation, compared with \$124 million for the last fiscal year. Accounting for most of the difference are an appropriation of almost \$5 million for special public works projects under an unemployment relief program and \$6 million allocated to the highway fund.

The legislature approved revenue measures to provide an additional \$30 million. These include a new personal income tax equal to 6 per cent of the federal income tax. Also enacted were a temporary increase to 4 per cent in sales and excise taxes to finance an unemployment relief program; a raise in the cigarette tax from 5 to 6.5 cents a pack; extension of the insurance premium tax; and an increase from 2 to 3 per cent in the tax on auto purchases.

The legislature created a State Personnel Department and a Civil Service Commission. It extended the merit system to positions in the Tax Department and the Public Service Commission and established procedures for expansion of civil service positions. The legislature established a Department of Commerce to consist of Divisions of Economic Development, Travel, and Research and Planning. A Department of Natural Resources was also established. It includes the Conservation Department, the Public Land Corporation and the Water Resources Commission. The number of divisions in the Department of Finance and Administration was reduced to three -- purchasing, budgeting and general services.

Other organizational measures clarified the authority of the Tax Commissioner for auditing of accounts of political subdivisions and outlined the responsibilities of the Legislative Auditor for state spending units. Retirement benefits for judges were increased from 50 to 75 percent of a judge's highest salary. A 40 per cent annuity for

widows of judges was approved.

The legislature provided a \$200 annual increase in teacher pay. It authorized the University of West Virginia to establish self-supporting graduate centers in commerce, science and engineering.

An air pollution control commission was established. The Department of Public Assistance was renamed the Department of Welfare. Unemployment compensation benefits were increased from \$30 to \$32, and the benefit period was extended from 24 to 26 weeks. Workmen's compensation benefits were raised from \$35 to \$37, and medical cost limits per injury were increased from \$2,400 to \$3,200. Rehabilitation expense limits were raised from \$800 per case to \$1,200.

The legislature authorized regulation of billboards along the interstate highway system. It approved a \$5 million bond issue for roads.

An Industrial Development Authority, in conjunction with the new Department of Commerce, was established. It will provide loans to local groups for construction of plants for new industry. Another measure amends the Interstate Compact on the Potomac to extend its research and education functions to water resources in general. The legislature approved acts for state and local executive and judicial succession in event of emergency. It also approved a records preservation act.

#### ATOMIC ENERGY

**Radiation Safety Law** -- The Florida Nuclear Commission has reported on a comprehensive program for the utilization of nuclear materials and the licensing and regulation of radiation sources. The program will be carried out under the provisions of a Radiation Safety Act recently passed by the Florida legislature.

The act designated the commission as the central coordinating authority and provided for licensing and regulation procedures compatible with those of the Atomic Energy Commission. Some fourteen state agencies are involved in the program. A coordinating council consisting of representatives of these agencies will operate under the commission's authority.

#### TAXES

The Ohio legislature has passed a bill abandoning the state's system of sales tax stamps. The measure is expected to save the state an estimated \$4 million annually.

Under the old system, merchants bought stamps in advance and handed them to customers in transactions on which the state's 3 per cent sales tax was paid. Afterwards, religious and charitable organizations to which the stamps were then donated could redeem them at 2 per cent of face value.

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#### DRIVER LICENSE RECIPROCITY

New Jersey and Delaware have concluded a special reciprocity agreement covering the imposition of penalties by the home state for drivers convicted of motor vehicle offenses in the other state.

The agreement covers reporting of convictions to the home state, conditions under which licenses will be revoked or suspended by the home state, and assessment of points under a point system. It also deals with the handling of revocations or suspensions for out of state drivers so that they will be concurrent in the two states. The agreement is similar to arrangements recently concluded by New Jersey with Connecticut and Pennsylvania (State Government News, February, 1961).

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Criminal Law Commission -- Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York has appointed a special commission to undertake a major revision of the state's penal code and its code of criminal procedure. The commission, to be composed of nine members, is made up of legislators, law enforcement personnel, educators, an Associate Justice of the Appellate Court and a member of the Governor's staff.

Purpose of the commission is to eliminate unnecessary and archaic provisions in the penal code and the code of criminal procedure. It will also revise court procedures in an attempt to reduce delays in trying criminal cases. The commission has a \$150,000

appropriation. It has been directed to submit an interim report by February, 1962, and a final report by March, 1963.

Rackets Bureau Established -- Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz of New York has announced establishment of a Rackets Bureau to handle major fraud cases, particularly in the housing, real estate, commercial and finance fields. The new bureau will be headed by an Assistant Attorney General. A Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection, set up in 1959, will continue to handle fraud cases related to the sale of goods and services.

The new bureau will investigate the sale of basic house shells, home improvements and "exclusive territory franchises." Other duties of the bureau will involve work previously handled by the Anti-Monopolies Bureau of the Attorney General's Office.

#### NORTHEASTERN BUDGET OFFICERS

A regional meeting for state budget officers of six northeastern states was held in Philadelphia, June 23-24. It was the first in a series of regional meetings for budget personnel expected to be held throughout the country. The National Association of State Budget Officers at its 1960 annual meeting approved holding such regional conferences.

Delegates at the northeastern meeting discussed organizational structure for fiscal control, program budgeting, the meaning of budget terms used in the various states, and the relationship of the budget examiner to policy making. Other topics covered included various methods of measuring and evaluating operating programs.



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